

重見天日 TUNNEL TO FREEDOM

By Paul Brichill

(平譯)

Two escaping men had reached the rendezvous tree in the woods, another man, crawling, was halfway to it, a fourth man had just emerged from the hole when the rope signaler saw a guard approaching. If he kept on coming, he was bound to step right into the hole. The men outside froze to the ground when they felt two sharp warning tugs on the rope. The German strode on. He was seven yards away and still hadn't seen the hole.

兩個逃脫者到了雜樹林中，另一個人剛爬到半途上，第四個人正由洞口露出頭來，這時司繩索的喊號者看見一個衛兵走過來。如果他一直朝前走的話，他一定錯進洞中來了。在外面的人們覺得隧道是全都在地下一動也不敢動，那隧道還在前面進。他離洞口只有七碼遠了，可是還沒有看見洞。

Left, right, he strode on, probably half asleep, and one foot came down a bare 12 inches from the tunnel mouth. His next step almost trod on the man lying doggo alongside the opening. He took one more pace, and then he snapped out of his daze. He didn't even notice the man lying at his feet, but he must have seen the black track across the snow. Then he saw the man lying halfway to the wood, and raised his rifle to shoot. At that moment one of the escapees waiting by the tree leaped into sight and waved his arms, shouting, "Nicht schiessen! Posten! Nicht schiessen!" ("Don't shoot, sentry! Don't shoot!")

左右左，左右右，他行進着，也許已在半睡半裝腔之下了；他的隻腳已踏到離洞口十二吋的地方了。他的第二步幾乎踏到那伏在洞邊的人身上。他又踏出一步，就清楚地過來。他一點也沒有注意到他脚下伏着的那个人，可是一定看見雪面上那一道黑色的痕跡了！後來他就看見那正在伏到洞口半途上的人，舉起槍來要放。說時遲，那時快，守在旁邊的一個逃脫者趕快跳出來掙斷手槍，喊着：「不要開槍，守衛，不要開槍！」

The sentry started shot wild. The two men at the edge of the wood and the man who had crawled halfway came slowly forward, hands raised. And then, right at his feet, the last escaper, still unseen, rose slowly. The guard jumped back a yard and looked downward. There in front of him was Harry's gaping mouth. He whipped out a torch and flashed it down the hole into the face of the 81st escaper, hanging precariously on the ladder.

那守衛也吃一驚，槍射到空地去了。在樹林邊的兩個人和那爬到半途的人慢慢走向前來，高舉着手，接就在他的脚下，那仍未發現的最後一個逃脫者也慢慢的站起來。那守衛跳後一步，低頭向下探望。在他面前的是哈里連的洞口。他拿出手電筒來向洞口一照，正照在第八十一名逃脫者的臉上，很危險的攀在梯子上。

The sentry blew his whistle. In a moment guards came running from all directions. 守衛吹起警笛來。立刻有許多衛兵由四下跑過來了。

Harry's long life had ended. 哈里連的長壽命乃告結束。

In block 104 there was a frantic scramble to burn our lists and papers, break up equipment and get rid of civilian clothes. The men in the tunnel were inching back along the trolleys, expecting a shot from behind. When the last man came up, the trap door was sealed down and the stove replaced.

在一百〇四號路口則大為騷亂，

忙着把各類文件燒燬，把各種傢俱也都毀掉，並把所有的平民衣服就地道裡的人們則順道拖車慢慢退回，說不定會由後面有槍子射過來。最後一人走上來時，八口哨門被封上並把爐子也搬回來了。

In a few minutes there came a scratching sound from below. A ferret had worked back along the tunnel and couldn't get out. We let him stay there.

幾分鐘後，由下面傳來一陣鐵鏈的聲音。原來有一個看守由地道中走了可是不從門而出。我們也未理他叫他就在下面呆了。

By six in the morning the compound was swarming with guards, machine guns covered the doors and windows, and ferrets combed block 104 calling, "Aus! Aus! Efferbody aus!" As each man came out of block 104, a ferret grabbed him and forced him to strip in the snow - boots and all, while every article of clothing was inspected.

在營地裡的我們則只有靜候懲罰。哈里連已經打破了犯人逃脫的紀錄，我們以為德國人一定會到我們頭上來翻本的。我們密密搜查每百〇四路口，當每個人都一百〇四路口出來的時候，就有一個看守住他，強迫他在雪地上把滿身衣服全脫光，連褲子一件一件的加以詳細檢視。

While the Germans were going on an adjutant came running to implore us to open the trap door. The ferret was still down there and they were afraid he would suffocate. The other ferrets couldn't find the trap door. We opened it for them. The ferret down below was not a bad type - he was the only one with nerve enough to go down the tunnel.

Most of the 76 men who got away were nabbed within a day or so, although some got as far as Danzig and Munich. All were taken to a filthy Gestapo prison in Gorlitz, 40 miles away. From Gorlitz, 15 men were brought back to Stalag Luft III. We could learn nothing more.

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